

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A HIE?

There are many benefits to patients and the overall health care system when HIEs are implemented and being used.

- Physicians will have immediate access to the information they need to make critical decisions about care
- Patients may not need to give address, insurance and other basic information every time they visit a doctor
- Emergency Room doctors and staff will have all the information they need to order treatments, tests and medications
- Results from tests and treatments will be available to physicians involved in patient care so patients will not undergo duplicate tests and treatments
- Test results will be received faster and electronically by the ordering physician
- Privacy is protected because only authorized health care providers will see patient information
- Due to an increase in the quality of health care and fewer errors, overall health care costs will decrease

Who will see my information?

MiHIN's guiding principle is that the consumer controls who will see their personal health information. Throughout each phase of the MiHIN effort to

build health information exchanges, the standard of consumer privacy, security and confidentiality will be paramount. The MiHIN Conduit to Care promotes developing technology, policy and legal solutions that allow for the greatest patient control and ownership of patient health information, as well as the maximum security and privacy assurances.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Visit www.michigan.gov/mihin. There, you will find the full MiHIN Conduit to Care report.



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Working with communities to find safe, secure and confidential ways to exchange patient health information electronically.



Imagine that a 71-year-old female patient arrives at her local emergency room with the assistance of her niece. The patient is a widow living alone at home who overall is functioning well until she calls the niece and appears somewhat confused, out of breath and sluggish. Due to her symptoms, the patient can barely remember any of her personal information, including the names and phone numbers of her doctors, names and strengths of the medications she takes, and her existing medical conditions. Unfortunately, the niece only has limited knowledge. Diagnostic blood tests demonstrate that the patient has an infection and a chest x-ray confirms she has pneumonia. The emergency room physician has decided to admit and start an antibiotic.

Scenario 1: Without the patient's history and medical information available, the patient is given an antibiotic that, unfortunately, she is allergic to. This causes a moderate allergic reaction that delays her getting well, prolongs her stay, causes many additional tests to be performed and, at the least, causes the patient significant discomfort and inconvenience.

Scenario 2: With the patient's consent, the physician accesses the regional Health Information Exchange where the physician locates a list of all the patient's medications, who her primary care physician is, and that she has some medication allergies. With this in mind, the physician ensures that she gets all her routine medications, and places her on an appropriate antibiotic. The patient recovers quickly.

Scenario two is the overall, long-term goal for the Michigan Health Information Network. The focus of the MiHIN Project is to enable physicians to access information they need to make important decisions about patient

care. Building the environment and technical infrastructure to support this type of system will take several years, a lot of work and collaboration among physicians, hospitals and other healthcare providers. The MiHIN project has developed a roadmap to guide the state toward making the benefits of health information exchanges, like scenario number two, a reality for Michigan's citizens.

HOW CAN MICHIGAN'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM BE IMPROVED?

One of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm's top priorities is improving the overall quality and reducing the rising cost of health care by working with communities to find safe, secure and confidential ways to exchange patient health information electronically. Many of the nation's top health care researchers have shown that using information technology can greatly improve patient care and even save lives by quickly providing health care professionals with accurate, significant patient information.

WHAT IS HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE?

A health information exchange (HIE) is the agreement between organizations to use technology to share information electronically between physicians, hospitals and other health care providers. HIEs allow physicians to send and receive patient information in a timely, secure and confidential way, with the overall goal of improving patient care by giving health providers the right information at the right time.

HIEs can be formed in communities, across regions or statewide. There is great interest in forming an HIE nationwide in the future.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN MICHIGAN?

Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm charged the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Michigan Department of Information Technology (MDIT) with convening Michigan's health care stakeholders to develop a vision and roadmap for the future of health information technology and exchange in Michigan. Governor Granholm highlighted Michigan's goal of extending health information technology to every healthcare setting in her State of the State address, 2006.

"We will help our health care industry stop depending on your memory and their paper records as databanks. We are going to use technology to vastly improve the system. In the future, you will be able to give your pharmacist, your doctor, or the emergency room immediate access to your information, but you will control who sees it and what it is used for," (State of the State Address, 2006).

The MiHIN Conduit to Care is a roadmap written for Michigan policymakers as a guide outlining recommendations for accelerating the use of electronic healthcare data sharing in pursuit of better patient healthcare services and outcomes. The improvements that will result from implementation of these recommendations will benefit Michigan citizens.